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3

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THE FRANKENSTEIN DRACULA WAR

**TRIUMPH AND
TRAGEDY**



1796: By holding hostage a young woman named Irena, the magician known as Count Saint-Germain forces the Monster created by Victor Frankenstein to invade Castle Dracula. The sorcerer, who claims to be centuries old, desires the undead heart of the vampire to generate an elixir granting eternal life.

The Monster does violent battle with Count Dracula, but neither of these two strange life forms can slay the other.

Their supernatural combat is interrupted when St.-Germain and French soldiers attack the vampire. After killing the troops, Dracula is at the mercy of St.-Germain—when the Monster intervenes and kills the magician. The perhaps-immortal Monster has decided he has more in common with the ageless vampire than with mortal men.

Dracula pretends to befriend the Monster, whose journeys across Europe arouse in him a desire to see the far parts of the world one day. The Monster and Irena, for whom he feels a great tenderness, linger for a time at Castle Dracula.

One night, Mirka, Dracula's undead paramour, tries to seduce (or perhaps merely to drink the blood of) the Monster. When he spurns her, she taunts Dracula into killing Irena while she walks alone in the nearby forest.

When the Monster encounters the now-vampiric Irena, he is forced to slay her to free her soul. Realizing this is Dracula's handiwork, the Monster vows to make war on the Lord of Vampires...

THE FRANKENSTEIN DRACULA WAR™

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DRACULA CREATED BY BRAM STOKER

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THE FRANKENSTEIN / DRACULA WAR™ Volume 1, Number 3, April 1995.
Published by TOPPS COMICS, INC., One Whitehall Street, New York, NY 10004-2109.
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TRIUMPH and 1796: TRAGEDY

IT WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR COUNT DRACULA TO MURDER THE PEASANT GIRL IRENA.

IN HIS SUPREME ARROGANCE, HE ALSO TURNED HER INTO A VAMPIRE--

--LEAVING IT TO VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER TO DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH HER HEART, AND FREE HER TAINTED SOUL.

YOU WILL
PAY FOR THIS,
DRACULA!

BY
HEAVEN
AND BY HELL--
YOU WILL
PAY!

ROY THOMAS writer • JEAN-MARC LOFFICIER co-plotter • CLAUDE ST. AUBIN penciler • ARMANDO GIL inker • JOHN COSTANZA letterer • CARL GAFFORD colorist • LEN BROWN, editor • JIM SALICRUP, editor in chief



BUT FIRST--

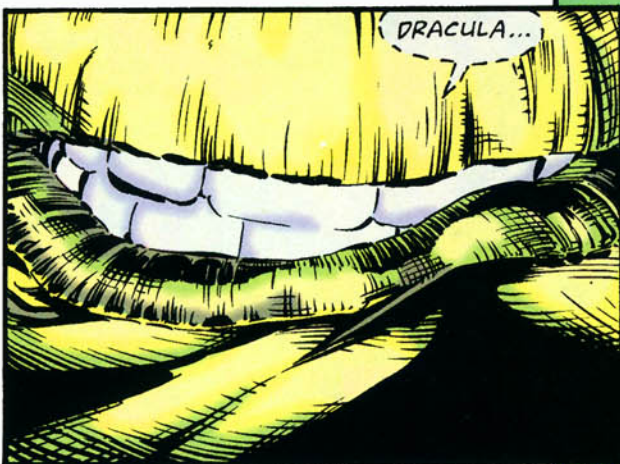
**--THERE IS THE
MATTER OF
BEHEADING
IRENA'S CORPSE--**



**--AND SCOOPING
OUT A LESS THAN
SHALLOW GRAVE--**



**--TO HOLD HER
BODY, NOW DEVOID
BOTH OF LIFE
AND OF UNLIFE.**



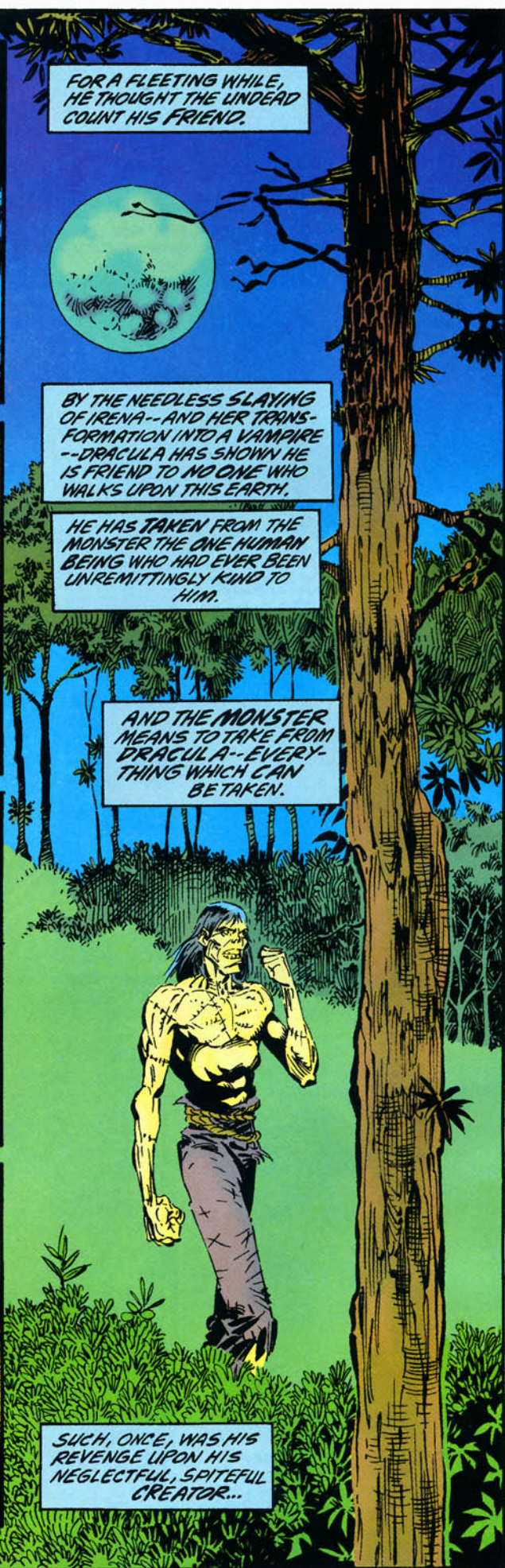
DRACULA...

**FOR A FLEETING WHILE,
HE THOUGHT THE UNDEAD
COUNT HIS FRIEND.**

**BY THE NEEDLESS SLAYING
OF IRENA-- AND HER TRANS-
FORMATION INTO A VAMPIRE
--DRACULA HAS SHOWN HE
IS FRIEND TO NO ONE WHO
WALKS UPON THIS EARTH.**

**HE HAS TAKEN FROM THE
MONSTER THE ONE HUMAN
BEING WHO HAD EVER BEEN
UNREMITTINGLY KIND TO
HIM.**

**AND THE MONSTER
MEANS TO TAKE FROM
DRACULA-- EVERY-
THING WHICH CAN
BE TAKEN.**



**SUCH, ONCE, WAS HIS
REVENGE UPON HIS
NEGLECTFUL, SPITEFUL
CREATOR...**



...AND SUCH
WILL BE HIS
VENGEANCE
UPON COUNT
DRACULA!

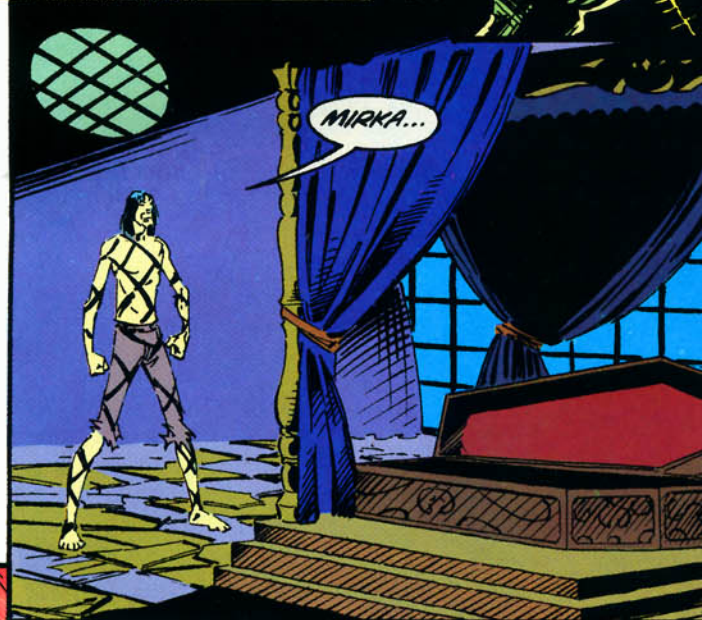


HE KNOWS PRECISELY HOW
HE MUST BEGIN--



--AND
WHERE.

SMASH



MIRKA...

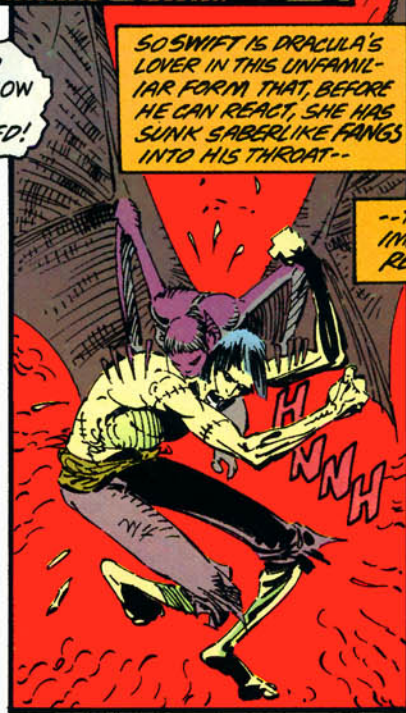


SHOW
YOUR-
SELF!



WHY, "VICTOR"--

--I DID
NOT KNOW
YOU
CARED!



SO SWIFT IS DRACULA'S
LOVER IN THIS UNFAMIL-
IAR FORM THAT, BEFORE
HE CAN REACT, SHE HAS
SUNK SABERLIKE FANGS
INTO HIS THROAT--

--TO HER
IMMEDIATE
REGRET!



WHAT
FOUL
IC'HOR
IS
THIS??

I'VE
NEVER TASTED
SUCH BLOOD--!



AND
YOU'LL NEVER
TASTE ITS
LIKE--



FOR YOU
SHALL NEVER
AGAIN TASTE--



UHHNN

--ANYTHING!

YOU KNOW I
GOADED DRACULA
INTO KILLING YOUR
PRECIOUS
IRENA!

THAT IS WHAT
THIS IS ALL
ABOUT, IS IT
NOT?

IN DISMEM-
BERING
YOU--

--IN TURNING YOU AGAIN
INTO THE MULTI-
TUDE YOU ONCE
WERE--



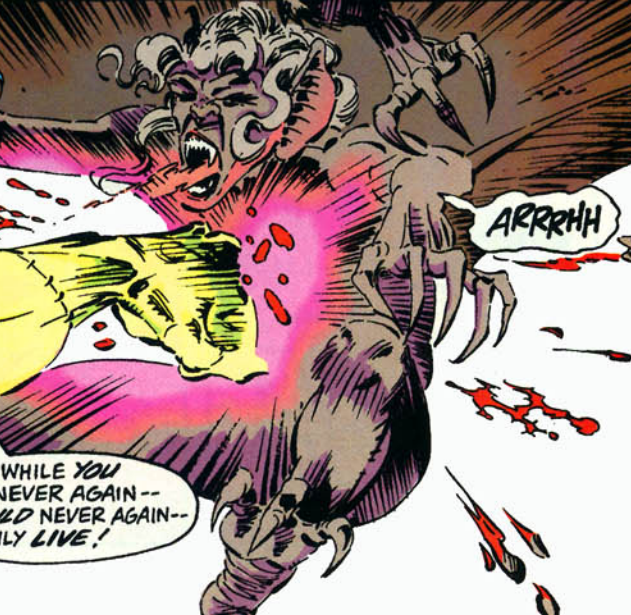
I HATE MEN!
AND YOU ONCE
WERE MANY
MEN--STITCHED
TOGETHER
FROM THEIR
LEAVINGS!



--I SHALL
BE SLAYING
ALL
MEN!

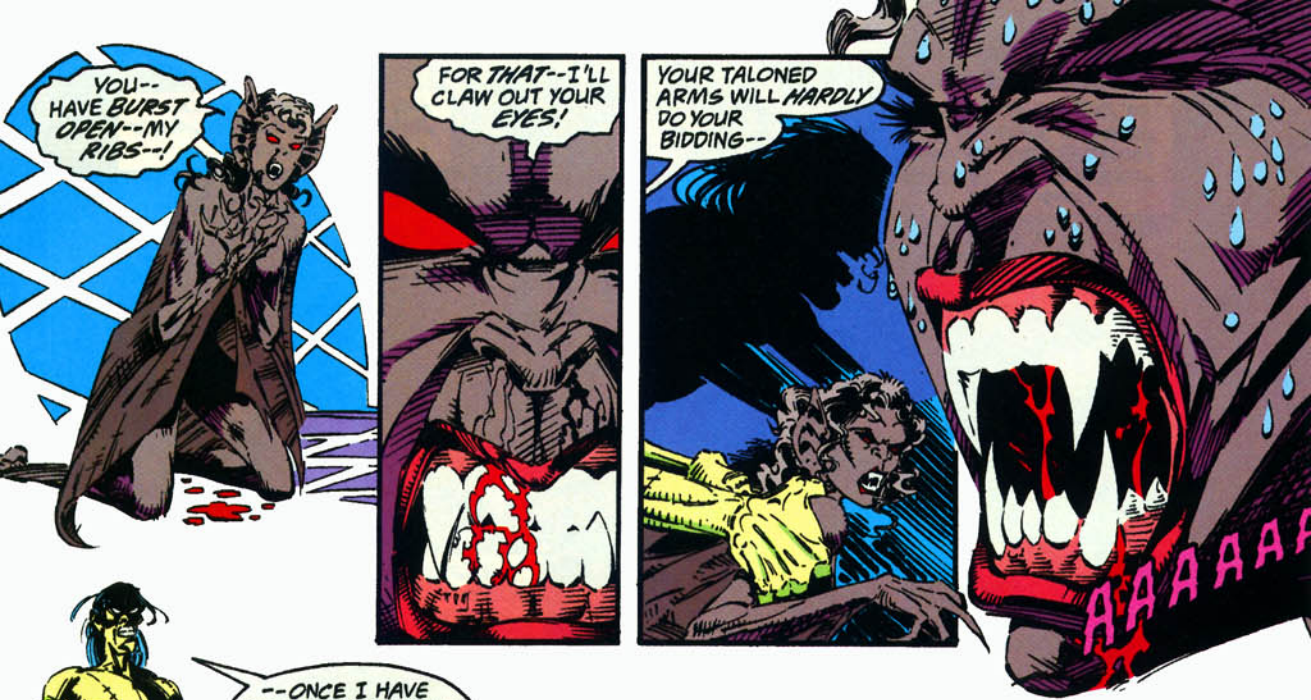


BUT I
CANNOT
DIE--



ARRRRH

--WHILE YOU
CAN NEVER AGAIN--
SHOULD NEVER AGAIN--
TRULY LIVE!



IN THE HOURS BEFORE DAWN, A SHADOW OF WINGED DEATH FALLS ATHWART THE CASTLE'S RAMPARTS.

HAVING FEASTED WELL, DRACULA HAS RETURNED TO HIS HOME...

...AND TO HIS HUMAN-LIKE FORM.

HIS RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH FRENCH TROOPS * HAS CONVINCED HIM THE OUTSIDE WORLD WILL SOONER OR LATER EN-GROACH UPON HIS ISOLATED EXISTENCE HERE.

HE MUST SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WITH RECENT EXPERIENCE IN THAT WORLD..

MIRKA?

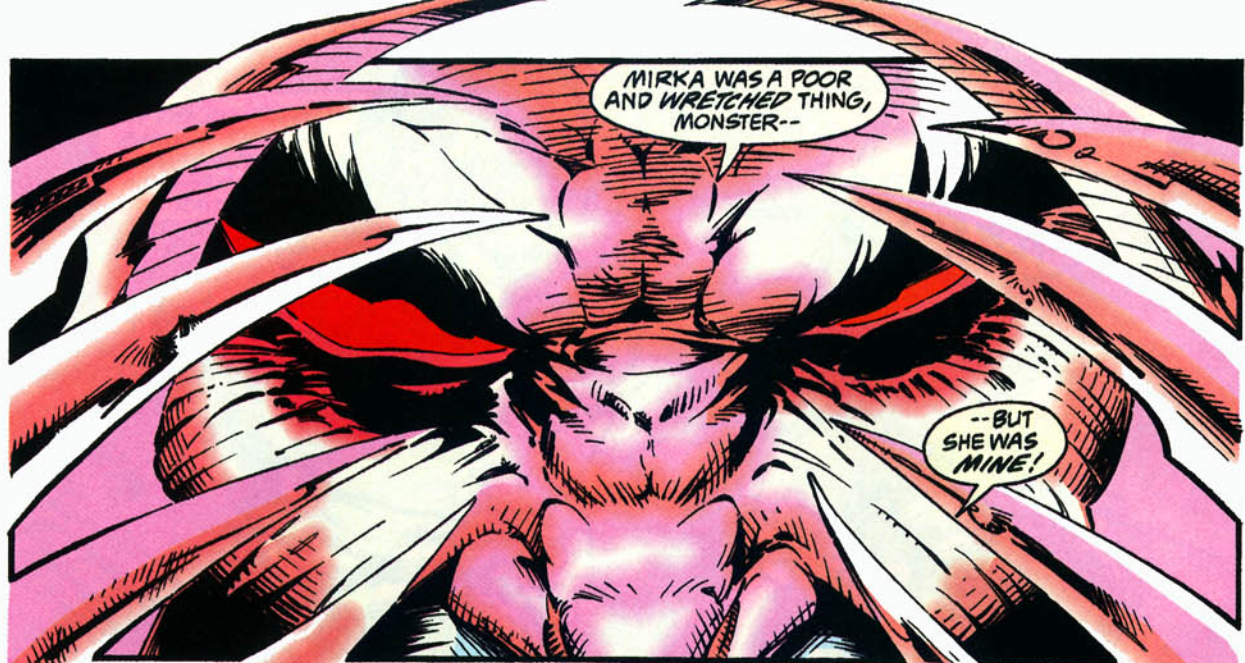
YOUR UNDEAD MISTRESS IS, AS EVER, COUNT DRACULA--

--AT YOUR FEET!

THUDDA
THUDDA
THUDDA

*Last issue.
--LEN.





MIRKA WAS A POOR
AND WRETCHED THING,
MONSTER--

--BUT
SHE WAS
MINE!



NO ONE TAKES
WITH IMPUNITY THAT
WHICH BELONGS
TO DRACULA!

NO
ONE!

I SEE THAT MY
SLAYING MIRKA DID
NOT TOUCH YOUR HEART
--BUT ONLY YOUR PRIDE.

I SHALL TOUCH
YOUR HEART--NOT WITH
THE BLADE I FIRST
BROUGHT TO YOUR
CASTLE--

NO
MATTER.



--BUT WITH ONE
OF UNTARNISHED
SILVER!

ARRRRH

YOU MUST HAVE
STOLEN THAT
KNIFE-- FROM THE
VILLAGE SILVER-
SMITH!

BUT THOUGH SILVER
HURTS ME WHILE STEEL
DOES NOT-- IT'S STILL
JUST A GLANCING
BLOW--

--AND SUCH A
SCRATCH MEANS NOTHING
TO THE LORD OF
VAMPIRES!



DAYS AGO, I SOUGHT
YOUR UNDEAD HEART
ONLY AS A RANSOM
FOR IRENA.



NOW THAT
SHE IS DEAD
AT YOUR HAND
--AND DEADER
STILL AT
MINE--



--I WILL TEAR IT
FROM YOUR BREAST
WITH A FAR GREATER
PLEASURE!

HAVE YOU
NOT YET
LEARNED--



-- THAT YOU
CANNOT STRANGLE
THE DRIFTING
MIST?

COME
BACK,
DAMN
YOU!



HHNNH!?

FOOL!
I NEVER
MEANT TO
FLEE--

-- ONLY
TO ATTACK
FROM A
DIFFERENT
DIRECTION--

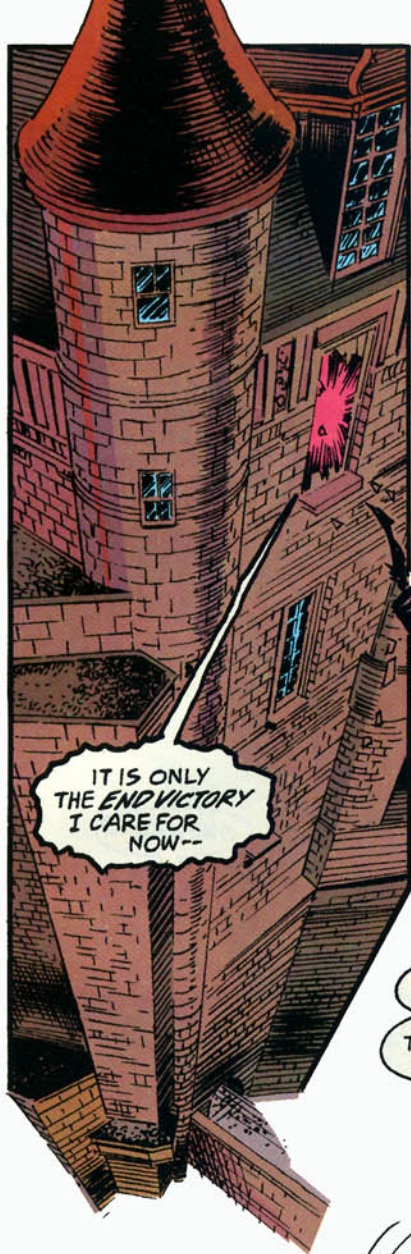
--AND IN A
WILDLY
DIFFERENT
FORM!

CENTURIES
AGO, WHEN I WAS
A HUMAN WARLORD,
I CARED MUCH FOR
THE VAUNTED GLORIES
OF COMBAT.



BUT BATTLE
HOLDS NO MORE
GLORY FOR ME...

... FOR NOW
I AM VAMPIRE,
NOT SOLDIER!



IT IS ONLY
THE END VICTORY
I CARE FOR
NOW--



--AND
HOWEVER
IT MUST BE
ACHIEVED--



--VICTORY
SHALL I
HAVE!

SKRASSH

NEVER!

THIS IS WAR,
DRACULA!

MOST WARS
END IN DEATH-- BUT
IN OURS, THAT IS
ONLY THE STARTING
POINT!

THIS IS
A WAR NOT TO
THE DEATH--

--BUT
BEYOND
IT!



SO BE
IT, THEN! DO
YOUR WORST!

IN MY DAY, I
HAVE WARRED ON
MAGYAR-- ON
BULGAR-- ON
TURK!

ONE OF YOUR
STITCHED-TOGETHER
ILK WILL HARDLY BEST
DRACULA ON HIS
OWN GROUND,
MONSTER!

MONSTER?

HE IS
GONE!

BUT THERE
IS NOWHERE IN
THE CASTLE HE
COULD GO-- NOTHING
HE COULD DO-- TO
STRIKE AT ME--

UNLESS--

YES!

THE
VAULTS!

**"THE
VAULTS!"**

CAN YOU
HEAR ME,
DRACULA?

YOU THINK
YOURSELF IMMORTAL--
INVULNERABLE!

YET YOU MUST
SLEEP EACH DAY--
IN A BOX FILLED
WITH EARTH OF
YOUR OWN LAND!

WHEN ALL THESE
DIRT-FILLED
COFFINS ARE
SMASHED--

--WHEN THEIR
CONTENTS HAVE BEEN
SCATTERED LIKE
DUST--





--YOU'LL
HAVE NO PLACE
TO LAY YOUR
TREACHEROUS
HEAD!



NOR SHALL YOU *SALVAGE*
ANYTHING FROM THIS
DEBRIS--



--ONCE
I'VE PUT
IT TO THE
TORCH!



NO, YOU WILL BE
FORCED TO VENTURE
OUT OF YOUR CASTLE TO
GATHER *NEW EARTH*--



--AND EVEN
THOUGH YOU DO SO
UNDER COVER OF
BLACKEST NIGHT--

--I SHALL
BE WAITING!




YOU WILL
NOT HAVE TO
SEEK ME,
MONSTER--

--FOR I
AM HERE!

WITH THIS
VERY SPEAR, WHEN
I WAS ALIVE AND HUMAN,
I ONCE IMPALED A
MAGYAR WARLORD.

SINCE I BECAME
A VAMPIRE TWO HUNDRED
YEARS AGO, I'VE HAD NO
CALL TO USE IT--

--UNTIL
TONIGHT!



YOU CONFUSE THE
PALLID *IMPALEMENT*
YOU PRACTICED WHEN
TRULY ALIVE--

-- WITH THE
POWER TO DEAL
ACTUAL
DEATH!

FOR,
THOUGH YOUR
ARM IS STRONG
INDEED--

-- THE LIFE THAT
SURGES WITHIN MY MAN-
STITCHED BODY CANNOT BE
EXTINGUISHED BY LOSS
OF BLOOD--

-- OR EVEN BY
THE PIERCING OF
MY TWO-LIVED
HEART!

IF I CAN
DIE, DRACULA--
NO ONE YET HAS
LEARNED HOW
TO KILL ME.

BUT A
VAMPIRE'S
HEART IS MORE
VULNERABLE,
IS IT NOT?

ONE
MERELY NEEDS
A WOODEN
STAKE...



YOU--ARE
MORE FORMI-
DABLE THAN I'D
THOUGHT, MONSTER!

BUT HOW CAN
THAT MAKESHIFT STAKE
FIND THE HEART OF
ONE WHO CAN BECOME
A DRIFTING MIST?

NO MAN OR
MONSTER CALLS
DRACULA A
COWARD!

SO--YOU
TREMBLE WITH FEAR
TO CLOSE WITH ME--
EVEN THOUGH I TOSS
AWAY THE BROKEN
SPEAR!

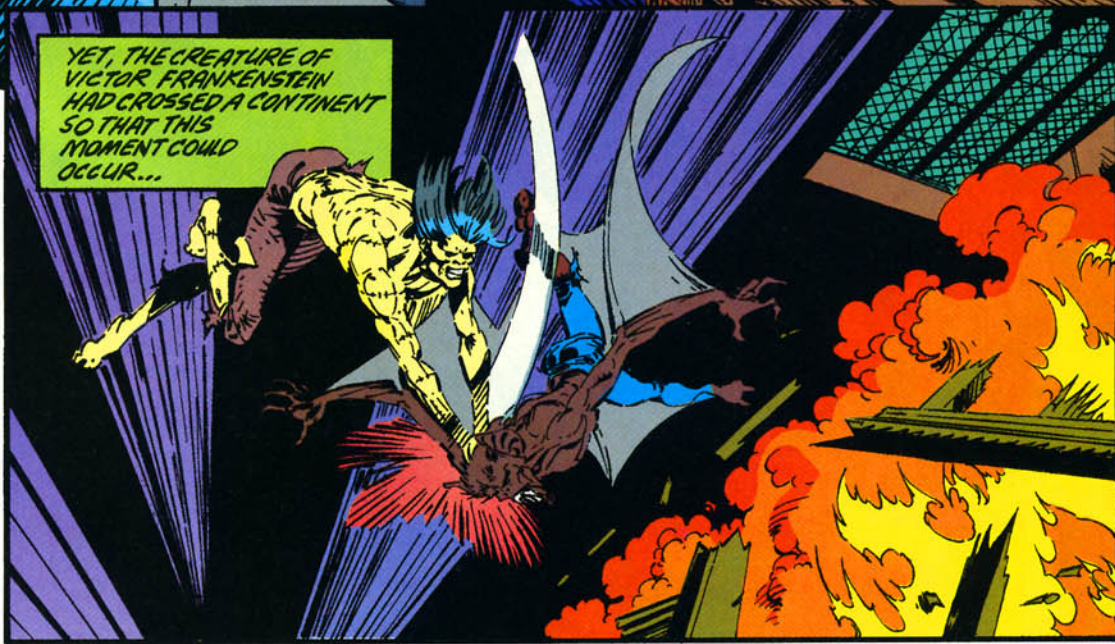


NO ONE!

THEY WERE
BIRTHED TWO
CENTURIES
APART...

...AND IT WAS NEVER
MEANT THAT THEY
SHOULD MEET.

YET, THE CREATURE OF
VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN
HAD CROSSED A CONTINENT
SO THAT THIS
MOMENT COULD
OCCUR...



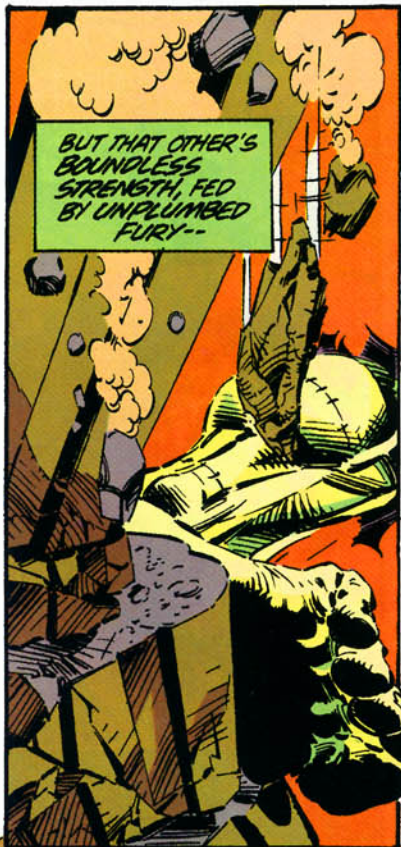


... AS THE SMOKE
AND FIRE FROM
BURNING COFFINS
SCORCHES THEIR
HEELS.

HAD THEY BEEN
DESIGNED BY THE
SAME MAN--OR
GOD--THEY COULD
BE NO MORE EVENLY
MATCHED.



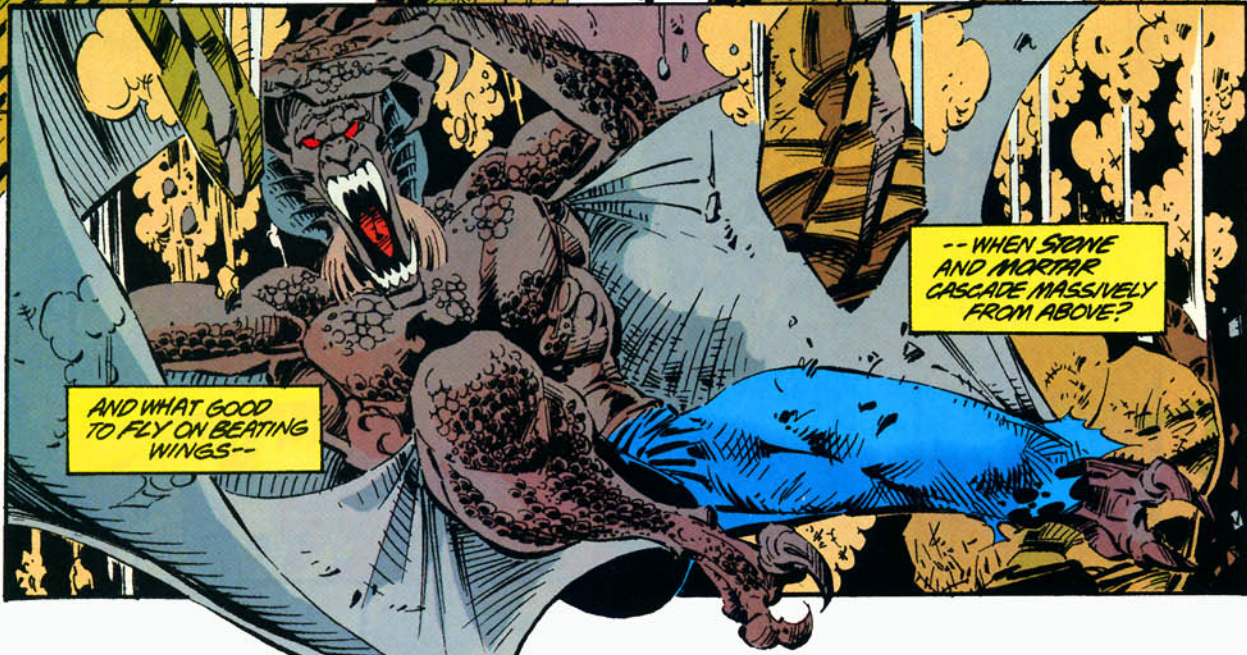
TRUE, ONLY ONE
OF THEM CAN
FLY--WHILE
THE OTHER MUST
CLING--



BUT THAT OTHER'S
BOUNDLESS
STRENGTH, FED
BY UNPLUMBED
FURY--



-- CAN BRING A
PILLARED CEILING
CRASHING DOWN!



AND WHAT GOOD
TO FLY ON BEATING
WINGS--

-- WHEN STONE
AND MORTAR
CASCADE MASSIVELY
FROM ABOVE?

CAPTIVE NOBLEMEN BUILT
THIS CASTLE LONG AGO, SLAVING
TILL THEY FELL DEAD IN THEIR
TRACKS.

FOR TEN-SCORE YEARS,
IT HAS HOUSED ANOTHER
NOBLEMAN, WHO HAD
BECOME ONE OF THE
UNDEAD--

BUT NOW,
IT IS BEING
BROUGHT
DOWN--

-- BY A
CREATURE
MADE BY A
MAN OF
HUMBLER
BIRTH.

WHERE
ARE YOU,
VAMPIRE?

HAVE YOU BEEN
IMPALED BY FALLING
STONES-- AS YOU
ONCE IMPALED SO
MANY MEN?

FOOL!--

DRACULA
LIVES!

THE SEARING HEAT
IS LIKE A FURNACE
IN WHICH TWO INHUMAN
BEINGS HAVE BEEN
HURLED...

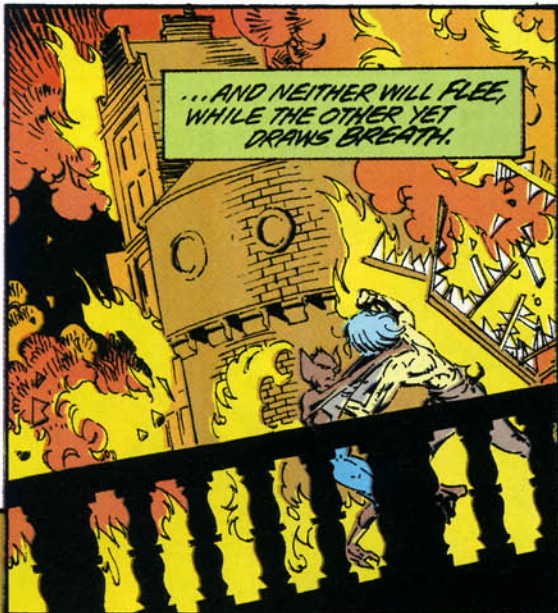
DRACULA'S FLESH
STRUGGLES TO HOLD
ITS MATERIAL FORM
AMID THE INFERNO--

-- WHILE THE VERY
SUTURES WHICH BIND
THE PIECES OF THE
MONSTER'S TISSUES
TOGETHER BEGIN TO
DISINTEGRATE.

YET HATRED STOKES EVEN
MIGHTIER FIRES THAN THE
ONE NOW RAGING IN CASTLE
DRACULA...



...AND NEITHER WILL FLEE,
WHILE THE OTHER YET
DRAWS BREATH.



THIS IS A BATTLE BETWEEN
SCIENCE AND SORcery--

-- BETWEEN LIFE THAT
WAS CONCEIVED IN A
GENEVA LABORATORY--

-- AND UNLIFE
WHICH NO MAN
OF SCIENCE, OR
OF GOD, COULD
EXPLAIN.

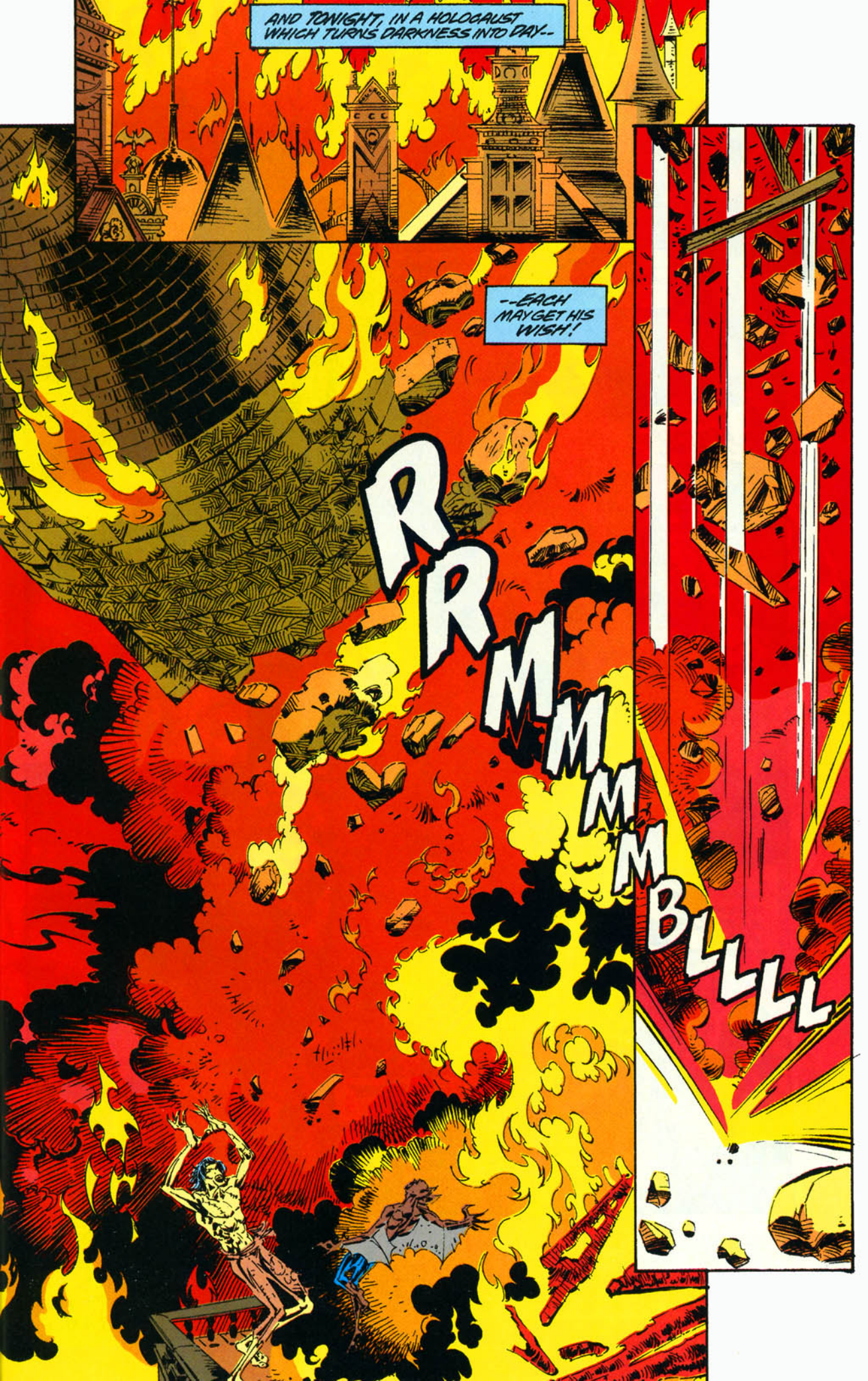


EACH WOULD
RATHER SEE
HIMSELF
DESTROYED--
THAN THE
OTHER SURVIVE!

AND TONIGHT, IN A HOLOGALIST
WHICH TURNS DARKNESS INTO DAY--

--EACH
MAY GET HIS
WISH!

RR
MM
MM
MM
BLLLL



YET, WHILE FIRES
STILL SMOLDER
AND DUST CLOUDS
STILL SWIRL...

...A SHAPE HALF BAT, HALF INST,
RISES FROM RUINS WHICH WERE
LATELY A CASTLE...

...AND
BECOMES
A MAN...

...OR AT LEAST
SOMETHING
WHICH RE-
SEMBLES
A MAN.

ALL THIS DESTRUCTION!
IT WILL BE ALMOST
WORTH IT, HOWEVER...
TO HAVE DESTROYED
THE FIEND THAT WAGED
WAR AGAINST HIM!

TO HAVE PITTED A CUN-
NING BORN OF A HANDFUL
OF YEARS AGAINST THAT
FORGED OVER CENTURIES--

HOW
COULD
THE OUT-
COME HAVE
BEEN OTHER-
WISE?

AND YET--

RRRRRRRR

RRRRKKKK

AS HE BEHOLDS THAT GREAT,
GAUNT FORM RISE FROM
SHATTERED STONES THAT FALL
AWAY LIKE DROPS OF WATER,
DRACULA KNOWS--

--EVEN AS THE
MONSTER KNOWS--

--THAT ALTHOUGH
CASTLES, NAY, WORLDS,
MAY TOPPLE ABOUT
THEM, CRASHING INTO
WRECKAGE AND
RUBBLE--

--NEITHER OF THEM
WILL EVER TRULY BE
ABLE TO ANNIHILATE
THE OTHER!



THEY CAN BUT GLARE AT EACH OTHER ACROSS AN UNBRIDGEABLE ABYSS--

--TWO DISPARATE FORMS OF LIFE WHICH CAN NEVER EVEN COMPREHEND EACH OTHER.



THIS LAND, THE MONSTER REALIZES, IS DRAGUNA'S DOMAIN.

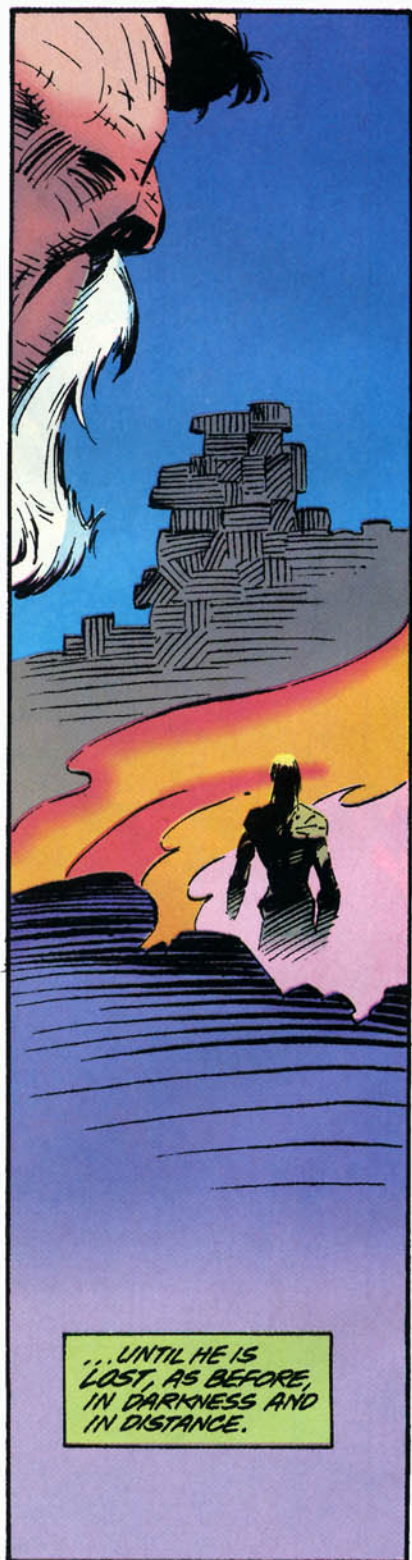
HE MUST FIND HIS OWN...

...SOMEWHERE.



AND SO HE DEPARTS... UNMOLESTED.

NOR DOES HE LOOK BACK...



...UNTIL HE IS LOST, AS BEFORE, IN DARKNESS AND IN DISTANCE.

IN TRANSYLVANIA,
LIFE GOES ON.

AND IN A DARK
MAUSOLEUM
ATTACHED TO A
VAST RUINED
CASTLE, BENEATH
A MOONLIT SKY...

...SO DOES UNLIFE.

DID THE LABORATORY-
SPAWNED CREATURE
TRULY BELIEVE HIS HOST
HAD NAIVELY SHOWN HIM
ALL THE RESOURCES OF
HIS SUBTERRANEAN
CRYPTS...

...EVEN ALL ITS
EARTH-FILLED
COFFINS?

ONE UNDEAD PARAMOUR CAN
SOON BE REPLACED BY THREE...

...WHO MAY DRIFT
AND MURMUR AMID
THE CRUMBLING
CORRIDORS ABOVE
FOR A HUNDRED
YEARS AND MORE.

AND IF THE SPAWN OF VICTOR
FRANKENSTEIN EVER RETURNS--

--COUNT
DRACULA
WILL BE
READY!

THE NIGHT-SHROUDED
MOUNTAINS OF
NORTHERN GREECE
SOON HIDE A SECRET
DWELLER...

ITS FORESTS BAR PRYING EYES
FROM ANY GLIMPSE OF THAT
WHICH PROWLs WITHIN...

... AS A WEARY BEING
SALVES HIS FAST-HEALING
WOUNDS... SLAKES HIS
THIRST...

... AND FEELS
A SENSE OF
LOSS.

STILL, THE VERY EXISTENCE OF
SUCH AS DRACULA AND ST.
GERMAIN HAS GIVEN HIM HOPE
THAT OTHERS BESIDES THE LATE
FRANKENSTEIN HAVE PLUMBED
THE DARK SECRETS OF LIFE...

...SO THAT ONE DAY HE,
LIKE THE BEASTS OF
THE FIELD...

... WILL HAVE
A MATE.

HE THINKS HE MAY
CALL HER...

...IRENA.

-FIN-

THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Roy Thomas and Jim Salicrup:

IT'S ALIVE!! You guys at Topps have created a monster with your FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR comic!

In the past I had made suggestions to other comic book companies about putting out monster titles, but they were asleep at the switch. Quite truthfully, I'm getting tired of reading comics that feature super-heroes with tights and a mask. DRACULA LIVES! was my favorite, and I miss that kind of stuff.

Roy, you and I have a lot in common. We have the same interests in our favorite creatures of the night. I have so many books about these monsters that I might have to live in the garage. (Just kidding.)

Jim, don't stop Roy and his Crypt-Keepers from making their monster comics! And if you do? You will have to deal with the Lost Boys -- and ME!

Have a good evening.

David J. Lukacik
723 Arcadia Av.

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Future FRANKENSTEIN and/or DRACULA comics from Topps will depend on circumstances, David.

Dear Topps --

The Crypt-Kicker Five sent me!
I loved FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA

WAR #1.

Great original story.

Continue the good job entertaining us all,

Topps!

Richard Owens
6720 Keel Road
Eight Mile, AL 36613

Short and sweet, eh, Richard? Topps intends to keep right on going, going, going, with books like THE X-FILES, DUCKMAN, JURASSIC PARK, and others. And don't forget -- we've got another three-issue CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS series in the works, as well, with script by Roy Thomas and art by spectacular Welsh newcomer David Roach. Watch for an announcement about it any day now, in various Topps Comics!

Dear Mr. Brown:

Some fast thoughts on the first issue of the FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR mini-series.

Overall, I'm impressed... but then, I expected to be, since Roy Thomas was writing it. Roy has proven himself to be adept at almost every type of comics scripting over the years... he can do science fiction, he can do horror, he can do sword-and-sorcery, he can do super-heroes! But I wasn't prepared for just how impressive this first issue would be!

One thing that impressed me really had nothing to do with Roy's scripting... rather, it was the artwork by Claude St. Aubin and Allen Nunis.

It's funny... I read Claude's previous series for Topps, the CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS outing called MAN-EATER!, but I didn't realize until this issue how much his work resembles that of the late Jack Kirby. Especially in the sequence that introduced the Monsieur Massacre character. In some panels, this callous chap bore a striking resemblance to a certain green-skinned goliath of our mutual acquaintance.

But, getting back to the story: another impressive thing was the attention to historical detail... then again, that's one of the hallmarks of a Roy Thomas work. And of course, in terms of French history, I'd expect him to be even more accurate in the details this time around, since he's working with Jean-Marc Lofficier, who is himself French, and a hell of a plotter!

However, what impressed me the most was the set-up for the clash to come between Dracula and the monster of Frankenstein: the historical Count Saint-Germain. One of my hobbies when I'm not eating, breathing, and living comics is studying the psychologies of the human monsters our real world has produced over the years... and while I try to stay well-versed, even I had never heard of this sadistic alchemist until now. But I'll be making a point of trying to learn more in the months to come.

David Peattie
4517 Birch Bark Rd.
Concord, GA 94521

It's always welcome to hear that a reader has been turned on to something else in the world of film, literature, or history by a comics story, David, even though a comic book must stand or fall on its own merits. Count Saint-Germain was indeed a real person, although we fictionalized him considerably in the FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR; certainly we have no particular notion of whether or not he was "sadistic," but an alchemist he most definitely was, who claimed to be hundreds of years old.

Nearly all action artists in the comics field have been influenced directly or indirectly by Jack Kirby, but we think Claude's put it all together in a style very much his own. As a special treat, on the next page we're printing Claude's original version of the FD/D WAR #2's splash page depicting the epic confrontation between our two monstrous stars. We later decided we needed a different drawing, but we didn't want to lose this one entirely. Enjoy, Frankophile!

Want to see more of Frankenstein? Dracula? Together? Separately? Let us know. Write to:

THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR

Topps Comics

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We'll be waiting...

